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7 September 1956

Acting Chief, Economic Research

Chief, Materials Division

Comments Regarding Proposed Course on "Handling Quantitative Data"

1. In general, the outline seems well thought out and to represent the kind of course required to meet our needs. The topics covered are, of course, the usual ones included in an introductory course in statistics. The real utility of the course will depend on how successfully the instructor adapts it to the problems encountered in ERA. I would, in this connection, make the following two suggestions:

a. It would be desirable to use as many ORR problems as possible throughout the course and not merely at the end of the course. For example, when discussing index numbers, it would be useful to use ORR problems to illustrate what is being said. This could be done either in addition to or in lieu of the "ORR Problem" section of the course at the end -- preferably the former.

b. I would suggest spending more than one period on graphic and tabular analysis, since graphs and tables play such an important part in our written work.

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Distribution:

O&I - Ch/E
2 - D/M
1 - Chrono

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D/M/RR [REDACTED] :tkp/3011 (7 Sep 56)

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